

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9, 11-51, 53-77, 79-83, 85-88 and 90 are pending in the present application. Claims 50, 51 and 64 are amended and Claim 90 is added by the present amendment. Claims 2 and 49 were previously canceled.

Claim 90 is directed to features of previously canceled Claim 49 and Claims 50, 51 and 64 are amended to correct dependency. Thus, no new matter is added.

This amendment is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, which after final rejection permits entering of amendments, canceling claims, complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office Action, or presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal. It is therefore respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

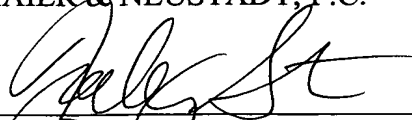
In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 3-9, 11-26, 30, 31, 36-39, 44, 45, 48, 50, 51, 53-67, 70, 71, 74-77, 79-83 and 85-88 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as anticipated by Lorimer (EP 0724371 A1) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,138,010 to Rabe et al. (herein "Rabe"); Claims 27-29, 39, 68, 69, and 76 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Lorimer in view of Rabe and U.S. Patent No. 6,427,076 to Skog; Claims 32-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Lorimer in view of Rabe and U.S. Patent No. 6,014,546 to Georges et al. (herein "Georges"); and Claims 40-43, 46, 47, 72 and 73 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Lorimer in view of Rabe and U.S. Patent No. 6,122,263 to Dahlin et al. (herein "Dahlin").

This amendment includes claim amendments to place this application in better condition for appeal. Substantive arguments traversing the rejections in the outstanding Office Action are presented in the Appeal Brief filed herewith.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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